

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-16 are now pending in this application. In the July 12, 2004 Office Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,692,452 to Nepovim (hereinafter "*Nepovim*"). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,065,530 to Austin et al. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being obvious over *Nepovim* in view of U.S. Patent No. 391,185 to J.C. Parker. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over *Nepovim* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,235,933 to Pare et al.

In the July 12, 2004 Office Action, Claims 1-5 and 12-16 were allowed and claims 7-10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and an intervening claims. The applicant has rewritten claim 7 in independent form to include the recitations of base claim 6. Accordingly, the applicant submits that independent claim 7 is allowable. Because claims 8-10 depend from allowable independent claim 7, dependent claims 8-10 are also allowable over the cited art. The applicant has canceled claims 6 and 11. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC

Leonard J. Hope

Date: September 13, 2004

By: Leonard J. Hope
Reg. No. 44,774

Merchant & Gould
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
Telephone: 404.954.5100

